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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Yuji Hikawa

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EXAMINER

ZHU, RICHARD Z

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/725,408	Applicant(s) HIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner RICHARD Z. ZHU	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/02/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/08/2008 has been entered.

Status of the Claims

2. Claims 1-30 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26 are “currently amended”.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

3. In light of the newly amended limitation, the examiner enters a new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(c) the invention was described in — (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Fukunaga et al.* (US 6775023 B1).

Regarding the means of Claim 6 and therefore method of Claim 11 and device of Claim 1, *Fukunaga* discloses a service processing device (Fig 4 and see Col 8, Rows 30-35, Central Server 102) comprising:

interpreting means for interpreting contents of script data that describes at least a location of document data as a processing object, and contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data (**Fig 4, Order Taker 403 and see Col 8, Rows 55-65, analyzing print order wherein the script data contains at least a location of document data, see Col 10, Rows 22-28, in original image position management table 412**); and

linkage processing means for linking plural service processing units that are connected to a network with each other to perform the plural service processing operations to the document data on the basis of an interpretation result of the interpreting means (**Fig 4,**

Central Transmission/reception controller 407 and see Col 9, Rows 55-65, linking at least an image server 111 or print server 121 together for a plurality of processing, see Fig 1),

wherein at least two of the service processing units each perform a different subset of the service processing operations (**Col 11, Rows 35-50, image server 111 has the functions of move, copy, and delete of a print image wherein in Col 12, Rows 25-35, print server 121 has the function of generating print outs of the print image, both transmitted from central server 102. See also Col 19, Rows 25-36), and**

each of the plural service processing units has access to the entire document data when performing service processing operations on the document data (**Col 19, Row 36 – Col 20, Row 18. The operation is as followed: 1. A client computer acquires desired entire document data from image server or print server in thumbnail. 2. Edits the document data on the basis of user defined parameters, wherein said editing is implemented by Image server 111. 3. Said entire document data is transmitted to Central Server 102 for compilation. 4. Once collection or compilation of document data is completed by Central Server 102, it is transmitted to a designated print server 121 to generate print out).**

Regarding Claims 2, 7, and 12, *Fukunaga* discloses:

setting means for setting the location of the document data and the contents of the plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data (**Fig 4, Image Register 404 and see Col 9, Rows 5-20, in particular, Rows 14-20); and**

creating means for creating, on the basis of setting contents set by the setting means, the script data for performing the plural service processing operations to the document data (Fig 4, Edit Image Supplier 402 + Order Taker 403 and see Col 8, Rows 56-65 and see Col 13, Rows 55-67. See also Order Progress Manager 406, Col 9, Rows 40-55. It appears that Order Progress Manager creates print request data on the basis of print order data generated by Order Taker 403 in order to determine the destination for performing desired plural service processing operations).

Regarding Claims 3, 8, and 13, *Fukunaga* discloses storage means for storing plural different items of script data (Fig 2, RAM 1002, see Col 9, Rows 41-44); and

selecting means for selecting at least one of the plural items of script data stored in the storage means (Fig 4, Image Collector 405 and see Col 9, Rows 20-40, selecting between supplying document data to an image server or a print server).

Regarding Claims 4, 9, and 14, *Fukunaga* discloses wherein the plural service processing operations at least include two or more of: a copy operation (Col 11, Rows 35-36), a print operation (Col 12, Rows 27-35), a scan operation, a facsimile transmission operation, a facsimile reception operation, an electronic mail delivery operation (Col 12, Rows 45-57 and Col 11, Rows 50-58, given said reference is implemented on internet network using web browsers), a storing operation (Col 11, Rows 37-40), a readout operation (Col 11, Rows 37-40), an optical character recognition operation, and a noise removal operation.

Regarding Claims 5, 10, and 15, *Fukunaga* discloses wherein the script data at least includes one or more of: information expressing a relation among the plural service processing operations, interface information for invoking the plural service processing operations, and information for configuring a graphical user interface relating to the plural service processing operations (Col 13, Row 55 – Col 14, Row 32, at least relationship information among plural service processing operations and interface information for invoking plural service processing operations. See also Col 8, Rows 49-56).

Regarding Claims device of 16 and means for of Claim 21 and therefore method of Claim 26, *Fukunaga* discloses a service processing device comprising:

interpreting means for interpreting contents of script data that describes at least a location of document data as a processing object and contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data (**Fig 4, Order Taker 403 and see Col 8, Rows 55-65, analyzing print order wherein the script data contains at least a location of document data, see Col 10, Rows 22-28, in original image position management table 412**);

executing means for executing at least one of the service processing operations to the document data on the basis of an interpretation result of the interpreting means (**Fig 4, Order Progress Manager 406 and see Col 9, Rows 40-55, execution of at least printing using at least one print server**); and

transmission means for transmitting the script to another service processing device for performing a next service processing operation after the executing means executes the at

least one service processing operation (**Fig 4, Center Transmission / Reception Controller 407 and see Col 9, Rows 55-67**),

wherein at least two of the service processing units each perform a different subset of the service processing operations (**Col 11, Rows 35-50, image server 111 has the functions of move, copy, and delete of a print image wherein in Col 12, Rows 25-35, print server 121 has the function of generating print outs of the print image, both transmitted from central server 102. See also Col 19, Rows 25-36**), and

each of the plural service processing units has access to the entire document data when performing service processing operations on the document data (**Col 19, Row 36 – Col 20, Row 18. The operation is as followed: 1. A client computer acquires desired entire document data from image server or print server in thumbnail. 2. Edits the document data on the basis of user defined parameters, wherein said editing is implemented by Image server 111. 3. Said entire document data is transmitted to Central Server 102 for compilation. 4. Once collection or compilation of document data is completed by Central Server 102, it is transmitted to a designated print server 121 to generate print out**).

Regarding Claims 17, 22 and 27, Fukunaga discloses setting means for setting the location of the document data and the contents of the plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data (**Fig 4, Image Register 404 and see Col 9, Rows 5-20, in particular, Rows 14-20**); and

creating means for creating, on the basis of setting contents set by the setting means, the script data for performing the plural service processing operations to the document data (Fig 4, Edit Image Supplier 402 + Order Taker 403 and see Col 8, Rows 56-65 and see Col 13, Rows 55-67. See also Order Progress Manager 406, Col 9, Rows 40-55. It appears that Order Progress Manager creates print request data on the basis of print order data generated by Order Taker 403 in order to determine the destination for performing desired plural service processing operations).

Regarding Claims 18, 23 and 28, *Fukunaga* discloses storage means for storing plural different items of script data (Fig 2, RAM 1002, see Col 9, Rows 41-44); and

selecting means for selecting at least one piece of the plural items of script data stored in the storage means (Fig 4, Image Collector 405 and see Col 9, Rows 20-40, selecting between supplying document data to an image server or a print server).

Regarding Claims 19, 24 and 29, *Fukunaga* discloses wherein the plural service processing operations at least include two or more of: a copy operation (Col 11, Rows 35-36), a print operation (Col 12, Rows 27-35), a scan operation, a facsimile transmission operation, a facsimile reception operation, an electronic mail delivery operation (Col 12, Rows 45-57 and Col 11, Rows 50-58, given said reference is implemented on internet network using web browsers), a storing operation (Col 11, Rows 37-40), a readout operation (Col 11, Rows 37-40), an optical character recognition operation, and a noise removal operation.

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Regarding Claims 20, 25 and 30, *Fukunaga* discloses wherein the script data at least includes one or more of: information expressing a relation among the plural service processing operations, interface information for invoking the plural service processing operations, and information for configuring a graphical user interface relating to the plural service processing operations (Col 13, Row 55 – Col 14, Row 32, at least relationship information among plural service processing operations and interface information for invoking plural service processing operations. See also Col 8, Rows 49-56).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: US 6822754 B1 discloses a server for selecting a plurality of printers to perform respective plural processing on an entire document data. US 6961144 B2 discloses a server for transmitting an entire document data to a plurality of processing devices individually.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Richard Z. Zhu whose telephone number is 571-270-1587 or examiner's supervisor King Y. Poon whose telephone number is 571-272-7440. Examiner Richard Zhu can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 6:30 - 5:00.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RZ²
09/02/2008

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